

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02472 260626Z

11

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 RSC-01 COME-00 /018 W

----- 002696

R 260557Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

SECSTATE WASHDC 1808

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2472

BEIRUT FOR RCAA (CLEW, ACTING), AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NBRA, EAIR, BEXP, OCLR, SY

SUBJ: MID-AMERICA TRADE MISSION; ESMARK LOCKHEED JETSTAR

1. DURING ECONOFF WRIGHT'S OCT 25 TELECON WITH WINSTANLEY BRIGGS, ADVANCE MAN FOR MID-AMERICA TRADE MISSION IN BEIRUT, WE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF ESMARK, INC. GROUP WITHIN MID-AMERICA MISSION COMING TO DAMASCUS FROM CAIRO, FRIDAY, NOV 1, VIA ESMARK'S LOCKHEED JETSTAR (LICENSE N22ES). ESMARK GROUP CANNOT COME TO DAMASCUS NOVEMBER 8-9 AFTER TEHRAN WITH REMAINDER OF MID-AMERICA GROUP BUT IS WILLING TO FOREGO FREE TIME IN CAIRO ON FRIDAY, NOV 1, IN ORDER TO FLY TO DAMASCUS FOR ONE-DAY TO MEET SYRIAN OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN AND ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERESTED SYRIAN OFFICIALS TO SEE LOCKHEED JETSTAR GIVEN EXPRESSED SPECIFIC INTEREST OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS WITHIN SARG FOR PURCHASE OF US MANUFACTURED EXECUTIVE JET AIRCRAFT (OF WHICH LOCKHEED/BEIRUT FULLY AWARE).

2. PER BRIGGS' REQUEST, WE CALLED CAPT ANDERSON, ESMARK PILOT, IN BEIRUT AND PASSED TO HIM ALL SYRIAN OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING REQUIREMENTS (DAMASCUS 2431 AND 2444, TO STATE AND BEIRUT).

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02472 260626Z

3. EVEN THOUGH NOV 1 IS A FRIDAY WHICH IS NORMAL SYRIAN HOLIDAY, WE ARE VERY HOPEFUL WE CAN ARRANGE USEFUL APPOINTMENTS FOR ESMARK GROUP AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR VISIT TO AIRCRAFT AND POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT FOR CONCERNED SYRIAN OFFICIALS. THESE MIGHT INCLUDE SYRIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER GEN NAJI JAMIL, WHO HEADS SARG SPECIAL AIRCRAFT SELECTION COMMITTEE DIRECTED BY PRESIDENT ASAD TO REVIEW NOT ONLY NEW AIRCRAFT PURCHASES (WIDE-BODIED, REGULAR COMMERCIAL JETS), BUT ALSO EXECUTIVE JETS FOR INTERNAL VIP TRAVEL AND NAVIGATION/COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING FOR SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES.

4. OF SPECIFIC INTEREST TO ESMARK, DURING OCT 24 MEETING WITH ECONOFF, MOHAMAD AMIN TAFRAN, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE'S GENERAL INSTITUTION FOR FODDER, OUTLINED SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION PLANS FOR ANIMAL FEEDING IN SYRIA TO SUPPORT VERY RAPIDLY EXPANDING ANIMAL PRODUCTION IN SYRIA, ARRANGEMENTS AND/OR CREDITS FOR WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONCLUDED WITH ROMANIANS, JAPANESE, CANADIANS (WHO WILL SUPPLY INITIALH5,000 HEAD OF CATTLE FROM AMERICAN SOURCES) AND OTHERS. TAFRAN EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN PROTEIN FEED FOR ANIMALS BASED ON EXISTING HYDROCARBON PRODUCTION IN SYRIA OR TECHNOLOGY INVOLVING UTILIZATION OF ANIMAL WASTE PRODUCTS. HE ALSO PRAISED HIGHLY AN ALFALFA DRYING PROCESS HE SAW IN ROMANIA BASED ON AMERICAN EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES. GIVEN USUAL NEED FOR SYRIA TO IMPORT FEED GRAINS, GOVERNMENT VERY KEEN ON DEVELOPING OWN ANIMAL FEED SOURCES AND WE WOULD HOPE ESMARK GROUP COULD EXPLORE SUCH PLANS, IN ADDITION TO GENERAL SYRIAN PLANS TO RAPIDLY EXPAND FOOD PROCESSING AND MEET KEY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1971-75) GOAL OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN BASIC FOOD ITEMS.

5. AGRICULTURE ACCOUNTS FOR 22 PER CENT OF 1972 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) OF \$1.9 BILLION WHICH INCREASED AT ANNUAL COMPOUND RATE OF ABOUT SIX PER CENT 1964-71 AND OVER 11 PER CENT IN 1972. LOWER CROP HARVEST AND WAR DAMAGE IN 1973 SLOWED GDP GROWTH, BUT INFLOW OF \$700 MILLION IN 1973/74 FROM ARAB SOURCES, NEW BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CREDITS, SIZEABLE GROWTH IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAMASC 02472 260626Z

PETROLEUM SALE AND TRANSIT RECEIPTS, AND 1973 LIBERALIZATION OF FINANCIAL AND TRADE CONTROLS HAVE PUT ECONOMY ON BOOM FOOTING. WHILE AGRICULTURE SHARE OF GDP HAS DROPPED OVER PAST YEARS WITH CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN INDUSTRIAL SHARE, MUCH OF LATER GROWTH IS AGRO-RELATED.

6. AS SOON AS WE HAVE FIRM SCHEDULE FOR ESMARK GROUP, WE WILL IMMEDIATELY CABLE TO CONCERNED POSTS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. KUWAIT: PASS THIS MESSAGE TO BRIGGS OF  
MID-AMERICA GROUP.

B. BEIRUT: INFORM LOCKHEED/BEIRUT OF POSSIBLE  
DEMONSTRATION OF ESMARK LOCKHEED JETSTAR TO SEE IF  
BEIRUT LOCKHEED REP MIGHT WANT TO ASSIST.

C. CAIRO: WE ASSUME ESMARK ABSENCE DURING MID-  
AMERICA'S SIGHTSEEING DAY NOV 1 WILL NOT INCONVENIENCE  
YOUR PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY SINCE ESMARK WILL HAVE TALKS  
IN CAIRO DURING WORKING DAYS AND THIS IS ONLY WAY WE  
CAN GET THIS KEY GROUP TO DAMASCUS.  
MURPHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974DAMASC02472  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740308-0399  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741014/aaaaakzy.tel  
**Line Count:** 131  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 MAR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MID-AMERICA TRADE MISSION; ESMARK LOCKHEED JETSTAR  
**TAGS:** EAIR, BEXP, OCLR, SY  
**To:** KUWAIT CAIRO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005